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Democrats Ratify the Treaty

Whether or not we agree with the 12 Democratic senators who voted for the ratification of the four-power Pacific treaty we must admire their courage and non-partisanship. Being human, they were subject to the very human temptation to take revenge upon the Republicans for defeat by the latter of the treaty of Versailles. And it was within the power of these 12 Democrats absolutely to have defeated ratification. Furthermore, they could have claimed full justification for voting against the new treaty since the Republicans refused to allow a "t" to be crossed or an "i" to be dotted upon the document as it was reported from the committee. The Democrats could have defeated the treaty and with a show of fairness and justice, but instead of doing so they were the ones really who ratified it since there were only four votes more than was needed for ratification. If even five of these 12 Democrats had voted in opposition to ratification the treaty would have failed.

But the ratifying Democrats deserve criticism upon one point. They did not stand sufficiently firm for the reservation of Senator Robinson which would have removed from the treaty any chance of its being in effect an alliance or even of its being considered as such. Having the fate of the treaty absolutely in their hands and being in a position unquestionably to defeat it they could have told the Republicans that the price they must pay for defeating the Robinson amendment would be the defeat of the treaty itself. The Democrats could have left it up to the Republicans to say whether or not the treaty was to be ratified, and if the Republicans rejected the means of ratification, which would mean the acceptance of the Robinson amendment, then they could not escape the blame for the defeat of ratification.

And it was nothing but short-sighted policy together with narrow partisanship that impelled the dominant party to defeat Senator Robinson's proposal. His reservation was a provision whereby other nations than Great Britain, Japan, France and the United States directly interested in a question of the Pacific ocean or the Orient should be represented at the discussion and decision of such a question by the above four powers. The two chief arguments against such acceptance of this reservation were that it might not be accepted by the other three powers and that it would be too nearly an approximation to the League of Nations. No one could dispute its fairness and justice so that opposition to it can only be regarded as un-American and meanly partisan.

Without the Robinson reservation the way is left open for a counter alliance, which would put the world back just where it was before August, 1914. Suppose the four powers to the treaty just ratified should decide some issue in which Russia, China and Holland were vitally interested and the decision should be unacceptable to the three latter powers, what might the result be? Is it not altogether reasonable to assume that these three powers might unite and by inviting Germany to join them, form a four-power alliance of their own? And such an alliance would not be one to be laughed at since it would contain the many millions of China and Russia to be organized into a tremendous fighting force by the efficient army officers of Germany.

The possible evils involved in the defeat of the Robinson reservation, therefore, are so tremendous as to be disquieting and fearful, and the good that will be achieved is nil. We hope that no counter alliance results, but hopes cannot cure national selfishness, nor can it stay the hand of injured and irritated nationalism.—Commercial Appeal.

Cause and Effect

The present lack of stability is due only in part to the shock produced by the world's mightiest conflict, and by its aftermath which loosened elemental forces of evil, exhibited excessive crime and lawlessness, and in revival of the spirit of selfishness which we had hoped was utterly crushed during the war period, when "we rose on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things," and experienced the exaltation which comes alone from service and sacrifice. The ideals which carried us into the war and enabled us to infuse new life into the falling morals of our allies, and through the deathless valor of soldiers and sailors, achieve a victory which added new lustre to the pages of American history, made all the more imperative the duty to "carry on" until the great task was fully accomplished. Duty and interest conspired to call us to give ourselves as unreservedly to winning a great peace as we had done in winning a great war, but passion and prejudice warped our judgment and made us short-sighted to our real interest.

More than three and a half years have passed since the signing of the armistice, yet outside of the Washington conference, the results of which were gratifying, what has been done in matters of world-wide importance vitally affecting us, settlement of reparations, stabilization of exchange, strengthening the social, industrial and economic fabric, and bringing about general restoration of lost balance? Nothing—less

than nothing. The party which go into power by engendering hate and resorting to misrepresentation, false pledges, and making free and unlimited promises which it had neither the power nor the purpose to perform, now finds that the desire of the people for a change, which contributed so much to its success, will bring about its undoing. The day of fulfillments he arrived and there is no fulfillment. Only the Pollyannas in the party believe that any of its promises to reduce taxes and restore prosperity have been carried out even in the slightest degree.

Golden opportunities have slipped away while politicians quibbled and sought party advantage at the expense of domestic prosperity, now absolutely dependent upon conditions beyond our reach. Then when the inevitable happened they offered alibis and instead of recognizing and applying fundamental principles, sought to popularize themselves with certain groups by placating them with class legislation, which they must have known would intensify our present economic evils. Hence the mischievous makeshifts of so-called emergency protection, which have caused the products of the farm to become a drug on the market; and if this policy is persisted in it will spell future ruin.

The Republicans rode into power on false pretense. They are still riding the same horse. Conditions will never be better so long as they hold the reins of government. While they are in the saddle hope for betterment is futile.

We must see to it that there is a return to Jeffersonian principles, as reduction in the high cost of government, of profligacy in public expenditures, a lowering of taxes, a simplification of the entire system, a doing away with special privileges and gross inequalities, thus removing the cause of unrest and discontent. Selfish interests must not be protected and parasites permitted to fatten on the blood of their fellow men while the real producers of wealth perish.

Fooling the Soldier, Fooling the People and Fooling Themselves

If there was ever any doubt as to the motives moving the bonus forces in Congress, it has been dispelled. The scheme is purely political. It is a bid for soldier support with an effort to avoid the disapproval of those who see in the bonus a treasury raid and a reduction of the service of the soldier to a money price.

The present plan is to pay all soldiers and sailors in cash if their bonus claim is \$50 or less. Those who served longer than a few weeks are to get a certificate. On this certificate they can borrow money. If they do not pay the money within three years the government will make the payment. This scheme gives a "bonus" but leaves the payment therefor to coming years. Thus a \$5,000,000,000 debt is to be put on the government—but payday is postponed.

Payday may be postponed, but interest begins at once. Who is to furnish the money to lend on the certificates? Banks, answer the proposers of this measure, through the Federal Reserve. Where will the Federal Reserve get it? It will print it and issue it against these certificates. Thus the stock of money will be possibly doubled. Then prices will shoot up and we will have a period of inflation, followed by a heavy collapse. The soldier will get his bonus and spend it at high prices. If he pays his note he will have to earn the amount in the collapse period. The government's financing in this matter will be unsound and rotten as the present Austria or German systems. The government might as well issue paper currency backed by nothing and hand it out to each individual. The soldier really gets a little sop, and both soldier and civilian will in the end suffer.

If the government decides on a bonus it should have the courage to put the tax therefor directly on the people. Under the plan of fooling the people the bonus in the end will be many times the cash allotments formerly suggested. But this debt is in the future and Congress cares for no future beyond the possible terms of the members in office.—Commercial Appeal.

American Politics

How is the world to be made over and happiness brought back to the souls of men if the processes must be planned and conducted by politicians whose first aim must be to keep in office and who must fight incessantly the rivals who are practicing to get them out? But that is what democracy means, and as men go, it is as safe a way of letting the nations muddle on as another. What saves us is that, though the politicians are and must be instruments of government, they cannot really govern. They can do well or ill, help matters or make trouble but a nemesis is always sharp after them, and if they do too well or too ill, pursue justice with untimely zeal or flout it too grossly, out they go and their rivals get their jobs. Progressive politics makes a great many people uncomfortable and cannot keep going for long at a time. People have to rest between spasms of progress. They soon get surfeited with righteousness and want to wallow for a while again. After they have wallowed sufficiently, righteousness again begins to look handsome and they begin once more to take notice of leaders who seem to have it. So the march of political improvement seems best to be served, first by a driving intelligence that will grasp an idea and get it going, and then by a more indulgent one that will let it work.

"Get Behind the Sheriffs"

All this yapping from certain sources about the people should "get behind the sheriffs" if they want the laws enforced against bootleggers et al., is so dippy and wobbly as to make the ordinary landlubber seasick. "Get behind the sheriffs." What with? A red hot poker, sharp pike, pole, or what? If that is what is meant, it is all right to get behind the sheriff and get busy; that is, if there is no way to get rid of such sheriffs. It is pretty hard luck for the people to have to employ a man to enforce the laws and have to do the work themselves, and this

"getting behind the sheriffs" mean nothing else but that. Such a squeal is just simply an excuse for dereliction of duty. It is camouflage of the most flimsy sort. The sheriffs have the people behind them, in front of them and all around them; also, additionally, they have the laws behind them, in front of them and all over them. Sheriffs are paid and empowered to catch criminals. It is their duty. Yet the people must go in front, or "behind," as some papers seem to place the need. Perhaps that explains much. But if we must get behind our sheriffs, let's get behind them with a hot poker, and it also might be well to have such officials lassoed with a good rope and a few "people" in front giving the rope a healthy pull. If we must encourage our officers by "getting behind" them, let us go about it in an effective way.

Your Duty to Vote

Every man and woman within the corporate limits of Hayti entitled to vote have devolved upon them the duty to vote in the city election to be held next Tuesday. And in the consummation of this duty there is another duty of far more importance than the first, and that is for what or for whom you cast your vote. To vote wrong is a great misfortune to not only yourself but your neighbor and your town. Vote only for men equipped mentally and morally for the task assigned them; vote only for men who will not be intimidated by any class, men who will be influenced solely by a sincere desire to do justice to all and by an unswerving devotion to their town's welfare, and who will fearlessly walk erect the pathway of truth, duty and honor. If any man wants a city office for any other purpose he wants it for his own special benefit, not yours nor for the interest of the town. If Hayti is to advance we must have lower taxation, we must have more economical expenditures of the public funds. This is a fact that no one denies or can deny, and it is our duty to all work together to that end.

News is News

There are two sides to every question, although some people are never able to admit or even consider but one—until the shoe begins to pinch.

In a certain town there was a choice bit of scandal. It would have looked juicy in print.

But the local editor did not print it. Too many innocent people would have suffered with the guilty.

A male gossip stopped the editor on the street and indignantly demanded that he "publish the news regardless of who it hits."

Shortly thereafter a member of the gossip's own family became involved in an unsavory mess.

Did the gossip demand relentless publicity?

He did not. He burst right into the editorial office with a heart-rending plea for complete suppression of the facts, "for the sake of his innocent wife and daughters."

The woods are full of 'em.

The Farmer is the Goat

Farm products have dropped in price to such an extent that farmers are no longer able to hope for reasonable profit from their labor under existing conditions.

At the same time they are still paying high prices for what they buy.

As a result of this unwarranted condition farmers are now demanding that the government fix a fair price on sugar, wheat, corn, cotton or wool, in order that they may be justified in tilling their soil beyond what is necessary for their own consumption.

Manufacturers, transportation companies and laboring classes are all organized and are able to keep prices of their products and labor up.

The hardest worked of all is the most poorly paid.

There is justice in the demand.

Talk about the "people getting behind some sheriffs." The bootleggers are behind some such officials and so closely that the people couldn't get between the combination. In such a case, we presume the people would have to get behind the bootleggers and bring up the rear. When that sort of parade starts we are going to start, too, but in the opposite direction.

This paper has more respect for some bootleggers than it has for some officials. The bootleggers might be reformed and become useful citizens, but we are not so optimistic of the "officials" who claim to be already "reformed(?)"

The Republicans and a few darn fool Democrats, alleged Democrats, refused to go into the League of Nations at the front door, but it is really funny to see them trying to crawl in at the back door to collect a bill in the reparation settlement.

If taxation and the general conditions as known to exist in Hayti are not sufficient to awaken the people to the fact that they have a duty to perform, they will never hear Gabriel's trumpet.

Before the election a candidate tells what he will do. After the election he tells what he can't do. If defeated he tells what he would have done. There is always something to tell.

The biggest "confidence game" ever played on the American people was the political game played upon them by the Republicans in 1920. That was sure some gold brick.

The first of the month is a gentle reminder that where there is a law of supply there is also one of demand.

Nearly everything is camouflaged these days—except legs.

Isn't it funny how human geese will fall for a quack?

The greatest of all safety is silence.